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Commissioner Notes

By James M. Thomas

It is abundantly clear that since September 11, 2001 and the recent hurricanes of 2005, there needs to be a concentrated, coordinated effort in all aspects of emergency management and homeland security matters. To this end, we are highlighting the Strategic Planning and Grants Unit of DEMHS this month.

The Strategic Planning and Grant Unit of the DEMHS have several key missions, including:

- to identify emerging needs and issues and develop strategic plans as they relate to emergency management and homeland security
- to work closely with both our local and federal partners in an effort to have a well defined, coordinated plan of action in any type of emergency
- apply for and distribute federal or state funds for emergency management and homeland security related matters

The members of the Strategic Planning and Grant Unit have been extremely busy since the inception of our agency. They have been working and continue to work closely with both the local and federal partners in an effort to maximize our efforts in planning for dealing with any type of disaster that might affect the State of Connecticut.

Although most of us think only of the fiscal side of the organization when we mention the Strategic Planning and Grants Unit, we can not underestimate the significance of the planning process which drives the fiscal side of the operation. We are especially proud of the fact that DEMHS has always welcomed the input of the local and regional entities, in the both the detailed strategic planning and also in the development of a budget used to support the strategic plan.

As we go forth with our efforts we very much look forward to the valued input that we receive from our local, regional and federal partners. Together we can be better prepared to handle any type of emergency situation we encounter in the future. We will make every effort to pursue any and all federal grants that we are eligible for, and we believe that because of the commitment of our staff, and with the input and support of the other stake holders, we will do very well in planning for and responding to emergencies.

Enjoy the May issue of the DEMHS Newsletter!

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND GRANTS UNIT

Governor's June 1st Spending Challenge Overview of the Strategic Planning and Grant Administration Unit

This month is an opportune time to provide an overview of the Strategic Planning and Grant Administration (SPGA) Unit within the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). The Governor's Office has challenged DEMHS to obligate and spend Connecticut's Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2004 funds by June 1st so that the needs of first responders are promptly met. Funding partners who read this article will better understand the role of SPGA and will be able to assist in achieving the financial goal established by the Governor's Office.

The mission of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) is to direct and coordinate all available resources to protect the life and property of the citizens of Connecticut in the event of a disaster or crisis, through a collaborative program of prevention, planning, preparedness, response, recovery and public education.

The Strategic Planning and Grant Administration (SPGA) Unit within DEMHS furthers this mission by securing and leveraging resources to strengthen planning, coordination and delivery of services across emergency management and homeland security functions and disciplines. The Unit's responsibilities are wide ranging requiring both an ability to see the "big picture" and at the same time attend to the details of administering an assortment of individual projects.

The SPGA Unit is managed by Elizabeth "Libby" Graham. Ms. Graham has over 19 years experience in program and policy development, planning and facilitation, and grant administration. She leads a professional staff of seven whose extensive experience includes law enforcement, fire service, emergency severe weather response, Interoperable communications, EMS, accounting and administration. The staff members include: Deanna Chaparro, Doug Glowacki, Bill Hackett, Jack Leonard, Gary Pescosolido, Ken Rigney and Rich Zaccagnino.

Since its inception in 2005, the SPGA has applied for over \$100 million in federal grant funds and is now administering the \$70 million that has been received to date (see table below).

Program	FFY2004	FFY2005
State Homeland Security Grant Program	\$24,448,000	\$15,491,248
Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention	\$7,255,000	\$5,633,181
Citizen Corps	\$508,000	\$196,661
Urban Area Security Initiative	\$10,371,407	\$0
Emergency Management Performance Grant	\$2,559,579	\$2,531,746
Metropolitan Medical Response System	\$400,000	\$227,592
TOTAL	\$45,541,986	\$24,080,428

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In pursuit of these funds, the SPGA coordinated an effort to revise Connecticut's Homeland Security Strategy to correspond to the federal National Preparedness Goal and National Priorities. In addition, the SPGA conducted a comprehensive planning process in which over 100 stakeholders participated to develop, in accordance with federal requirements, the grant application for FFY2006 Homeland Security funds. Stakeholders examined Connecticut's strengths and weaknesses against national priorities, eight priority target capabilities and four additional capabilities. These capabilities are listed below:

Eight Priority Target Capabilities	Additional Target Capabilities
Information Sharing and Dissemination	Intelligence Analysis and Production
Law Enforcement Investigation and Operations	Critical Infrastructure Protection
Interoperable Communications	Urban Search and Rescue
CBRNE Detection	Medical Supplies Management and Distribution
Explosive Device Response Capabilities	
WMD/Hazardous Materials Response and Decontamination	
Mass Prophylaxis	
Medical Surge	

Ultimately, a total of 50 strengths and weaknesses were identified, subsequently prioritized by the Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council (EMHSCC) and integrated into seven initiatives resulting in a \$30 million grant application. Federal Fiscal Year 2006 Homeland Security grant funds will be distributed on a competitive basis, with each state receiving at minimum \$7 million. The balance of funding issued will be based on risk and need. Award notification is expected June 1. We are very hopeful that Connecticut will secure adequate funding to sustain current efforts and launch new initiatives.

Current Programming

In March, SPGA staff launched the Regional Planning Model across the state with the release of written guidance to eligible grant recipients. Through federal Homeland Security funds, DEMHS now employs five regional planners whose express function is to craft a regional plan for each of the new DEMHS Planning Regions and to establish multi-disciplinary regional emergency planning committees. Interested Regional Planning Organizations are also involved and have worked directly with DEMHS Regional Coordinators to identify project deliverables that they can provide which will further the goal of regionalizing Connecticut's emergency management and homeland security services. Training and exercise functions will also be regionalized.

There are three other important regional initiatives that further reinforce the federal priority of expanded regional collaboration and the direction that was set in the FFY2006 planning process. First, the work being conducted under the auspices of the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) in the greater New Haven area; second, the continuing work of the Capitol Region in emergency planning and finally, the fledgling regional initiative in the northwestern Connecticut.

The UASI region is composed of New Haven and its seven contiguous towns: North Haven, East Haven, North Branford, Orange, Hamden, West Haven and Woodbridge. As a federally designated UASI area, the region became eligible for FFY 2004 grant funds, which it invested in interoperable communications, critical infrastructure protection, emergency response equipment, and in ground-breaking programming related to the psychological component to disaster recovery.

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The Capitol Region Emergency Planning Committee (CREPC), the long-standing regional emergency planning committee of the Capitol Region Council of Governments has applied its federal FFY2004 and 2005 funds to a range of projects designed to enhance its regional service delivery model. It has invested in interoperable communications, emergency response equipment, shelter capacity enhancement, training and exercise events, evacuation planning, expansion of Citizen Corps participation, and animal rescue capabilities.

Finally, the more recently established Northwestern Connecticut/Litchfield Hills Public Safety Task Force, composed of twenty (20) towns has pooled a portion of each town's FFY2004 Homeland Security Grant allocation to support an area-wide sheltering project, interoperable communications and an emergency notification system.

Each of these initiatives --- UASI, CREPC and NW/LH Public Safety Task Force are at different stages of development but all demonstrate the value of operating on a regional basis.

At the state level there are several initiatives worth mentioning among them is the geospatial information systems (GIS) project. The SPGA Unit has secured through a grant issued to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM), seed funding to establish a significant GIS capability within DEMHS. Working in collaboration with OPM, the Department of Information and Technology and the state GIS Coordinating Council, DEMHS expects to establish the foundation for statewide GIS applications, while at the same time fulfilling immediate emergency management and homeland security planning needs.

In addition DEMHS is overseeing a number of statewide equipment procurement projects that will increase capabilities at both the state and regional level. Specialized equipment is being procured for the State Regional Foam Service, Department of Environment Protection (DEP) Hazmat Team, DEP Radiation Unit, the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Services Unit (ESU), Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT), bomb squads in New Haven, Hartford and Stamford, and five regional Hazmat teams. Also, DEMHS will be procuring 9,000 cots to be deployed statewide for sheltering purposes.

At the municipal level the majority of work that has been accomplished focuses on emergency preparedness equipment purchases such as computers and laptops, detection systems, personnel identification and security systems, personal protective equipment, search and rescue equipment, site clean-up and decontamination equipment, traffic management, responder vehicles and trailers, generators and equipment storage, interoperable communications equipment. There is pent up demand for emergency notification systems and specific radio equipment, which will be addressed upon release of contracts by the DOIT. So far municipalities that have selected DEMHS as their administrative agent have spent 54% of the total funds allocated to them under the 2004 program and 22% under the 2005 program

What is your role in providing resources to first responders?

The SPGA Unit serves the important function of matching available funds to success-bound programs and projects that protect the life and property of the citizens of Connecticut. The Governor's Office has deemed this work to be so important that it has challenged DEMHS to obligate and spend FFY2004 Homeland Security Grant funds by June 1st. The SPGA Unit cannot do this alone. DEMHS cannot do this alone. Success is within reach provided each funding partner assigns priority to this work. Full fund obligation and expenditure is the goal of the SPGA staff for the remaining weeks of May. Overall for both state and local projects, 34% of the 2004 funds and 58% of the 2005 funds remain unspent. There is still much work to be done.

If there is any way we can help your community spend these remaining funds, please contact SPGA staff immediately at 860-256-0900. We are ready, willing, and able to assist in order to meet the needs of Connecticut's first responders.



Grants Unit (left to right): Bill Hackett, Gary Pescosolido, Libby Graham, Deanna Chaparro, Rich Zaccagnino. Missing from photo: Jack Leonard, Doug Glowacki, Ken Rigney.

**The deadline to nominate candidates for the 2006
Emergency Manager of the Year Award has been
extended to June 15, 2006**

Please send all nominations to:

Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security
State Emergency Operations Center
360 Broad Street, Rm. 164
Hartford, CT 06105

ATTN: NESEC Awards Committee



History of Memorial Day



Memorial Day began as a memorial for Civil War veterans. It has become both, a National Decoration Day of family graves, and the holiday that opens the summer season. It is celebrated with backyard barbecues, outdoor picnics, and parades.

Waterloo, New York was recognized by President Lyndon Johnson and both houses of Congress, as the birthplace of Memorial Day because the town decorated the graves of Civil War veterans as early as May 5, 1866. The claim is contested by Boalsburg, Pennsylvania, which claims to have begun the practice of decorating soldier's graves two years earlier than Waterloo. Another source claims that two years after the Civil War, it was southern women in Columbus, Mississippi who decorated the graves of both Confederate and Union men. Nevertheless, sources agree that it was General John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic who designated May 30, 1868, *"as a day for strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, or hamlet churchyard in the land...It is the purpose of the commander-in-chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept from year to year while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of the departed."*

No survivor of that war remains, but the memories of it grow longer. As do our memories of the parades with floats; civic organizations and drum majorettes twirling their batons; lines and lines of young veterans from The Gulf War and shorter lines of older men who saw service in the Second World War. As long as there are wars, there will be veterans and casualties. We will still decorate the graves of those men whose bodies came home and remember those who don't.

The custom of placing flowers upon graves is an old one, and exists in many countries. The Greeks had rites called zoai, which were performed over each new grave. If the flowers took root and blossomed on the graves, it meant the souls were sending back the message that they had found happiness. The Roman festival, called Parentalia, or Day of the Fathers, lasted for eight days in February--violets and roses were the special flowers. Whatever the flower, wherever the grave, this placing of flowers upon graves has always seemed the natural thing to do.

Today, most states officially recognize the May Memorial Day as a legal holiday, but it is not celebrated on May 30th in every state. Over time the holiday has expanded to encompass our other national wars. Although Veteran's Day is celebrated as well, Memorial Day has become the most important day of recognition of our armed forces.

Upcoming Training & Exercise

May 15 - 19 ETO, STO Training and Exercise Conference, EMI

May 25 Hurrevac Training, SEOC

May 26, 27, 28 SART / CERT Large Animal Rescue Training, Simsbury Airport

For training and exercise questions please contact Bob Christ, Bob Scata, or Sharon Mazzochi at 860-727-9319. *Please note—this is a new number. Training office has been moved to Brainard Field, 269 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT.

Training is critical for first responders and is readily available through the State Fire Academy, Regional Fire Schools, and the Police Officers Training Academy. First responders include Police, Fire, Public Works, Education and 911 dispatchers to name but a few.

All of the following organizations have the ability to deliver **NIMS training** to your police officers, firefighters, public works employees, 911 dispatchers, health workers, education staff and emergency management personnel. Training can be delivered weekdays, weekends or evenings to meet your needs. The NIMS program can be delivered in four, eight or twelve hour modules depending on the duties assigned to personnel.

You should also know that these programs are available on line at FEMA's web site:
http://www.fema.gov/tab_education.shtm

Training Facility Contact Information: call to schedule training.

Police Officers Training Council	203-238-6505
Connecticut Fire Academy	860-627-6363
Eastern CT Fireman's Training School	860-487-1105
New Haven Regional Fire Academy	203-946-6215
Wolcott Fire School	203-879-1559
Hartford County Fire School	860-828-3242
Burrville Fire Training School	860-482-7496
Valley Fire Training School	203-736-6222
Middlesex County Fire School	860-663-1308
Fairfield Fireman's Training School	203-254-4709
Stamford Regional Training Fire School	203-977-4673

All State Agencies should contact the Training Unit at DEMHS, 860-727-9319 to arrange training for your employees.

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security is sponsoring a Hurricane Preparedness Workshop on June 14, 2006. The conference will run from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm and will be held at the Savin Rock Convention Center, Captain Thomas Blvd., West Haven, Ct. (directions below).

Due to space limitations the conference will be open to Emergency Management Directors ONLY and pre-registration is required. Topics will include Evacuation and Sheltering, the EMAC process, Health Concerns After a Disaster, and more. Presenters will represent DEMHS, the American Red Cross, DPH, and DEP.

Please fill out the attached registration form and fax it to DEMHS at 860-256-0815 no later than June 1st. Seating is limited to 160 persons and will be accepted on a first come first served basis.

Registration (Continental Breakfast)	0800
Introductions: Commissioner Thomas	0830
Latest Hurricane Forecast: Doug Glowacki	0900
NWS Watch and Warning Programs: NWS Brookhaven Office	0930
Refreshing Pause: (Coffee Break)	1000
Evacuation Plan: Kerry Flaherty	1015
Sheltering Issues: American Red Cross	1100
EMAC process: Dana Conover	1130
Lunch:	1200
Health Issues After a Major Disaster: DPH	1300
Recovery (Debris Management) Operations: DEP	1330
Refreshing Pause (Coffee Break)	1400
Disaster Declaration Process: Paul Gibb	1415
Conference Adjourns	1500

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND
HOMELAND SECURITY

**HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP
REGISTRATION FORM**

LIMITED TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTORS ONLY

MUNICIPALITY: _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

FAX: _____

EMAIL: _____

Fax Registration to DEMHS at 860-256-0815 by **June 1st**.